

REMARKS

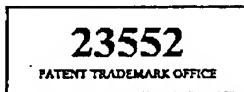
Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-9, 17 and 18 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants do not concede the correctness of the maintained rejections and reserve the right to pursue the rejected claims in a continuing application. The remaining pending claims (claims 10-16) are allowed.

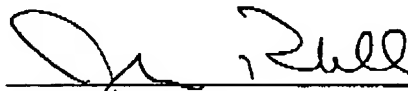
In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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JNR:ae